

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, May 1879, with transcript

Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel (Hubbard) Bell. Tifts House, Buffalo, Saturday, May 7, 1879. Mrs. Bell, 1509 R. I. Ave., Washington. My sweet May:

I suppose I won't have a chance to write to you again in time to have you get my letter before Wednesday so I send you these few lines while waiting at the hotel here. Our train leaves at a quarter before one in the morning and it is now ten minutes past eight in the evening. Mary has gone upstairs to lie down as she is very tired — and has been quite sick all day. The motion of the care has been excessive and both Mary and I have felt quite seasick! We are not the only passengers so affected. Two or three ladies were on board and all seemed affected. I certainly never experienced such motion on board a train before. Sleep was entirely out of the question. I telegraphed my father today so that he might have a cab in waiting at the Depot. We arrive at four o'clock in the morning.

I telegraphed to have you keep the house a fortnight. I cut out the word "Please" — this time!! Hope you did not think my message peremptory?

I don't want you my darling to go and worry yourself and tire yourself out by a sudden removal. You don't look well and you know you are just as tired as you can be — and I don't want you to do all the work of packing up and removing as you did in London. That should be for me to do. So I lay my husbandly authority on you and enjoin you to be a good and obedient wife. Reserve all your strength for Elsie's benefit — and leave the packing and 2 removal to me. Dear Mabel — if you love me — don't go and tire yourself out any more — but rest till I return which will probably be on Thursday or Friday. There is another thing too — I do not want to leave the house without a personal final search for the missing experimental books. My testimony cannot be given until these books are found. I

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thought your Uncle Eusti? had them safely in his possession and now it almost maddens me to think they may have gone astray.

Please excuse this hasty scrawl — I am tired out — sick — and headachy — and not fit to write a proper letter at all. I shall lie down and rest till it is time to start again.

I shall leave Canada in time to be in Philadelphia when Mr. Pollok wants me — I have asked him to telegraph the day — and I hope to be back on Thursday or Friday. Rest till then. We can then together superintend the packing and removal and have the house put in thoroughly good order before the new tenants come in. I think it might be well to let them know we can arrange for them to come into the house in a fortnight — by which time we will be safely in Cambridge. My darling — good night — love to papa and mama — to sister and Berta and to my daughter (doesn't it seem strange to have a “daughter”).

Your loving husband, Alec.